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Government have decided to postpone the introduction of the revised arrangements to 1st June 1947. For the same reasons, the Government have also decided to defer the decision to utilize the existing co-operative organizations and the producers–cum–consumers' co-operative societies for distribution of cloth in the district other than Malabar till the end of May 1947."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what is the area of operations of each producers-cum-consumer's co-operative society? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Each firka has got two or three societies and the whole district is included for distribution."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether there are two or three sub-depots under each society for the distribution of cloth and other necessaries? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take it is so."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that these 106 societies have taken over the control of the entire 3,000 ration shops in the district."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" It is so, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know who is the deciding authority whether certain co-operative societies other than producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies can also be entrusted with this task of distributing cloth? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" The department concerned, Sir."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Will it not be possible to distribute through those shops which have been taken over by the co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Yes, Sir."

Issue of licences to merchants.

* 78 *Q.*—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a fresh licence was issued to Messrs. Rukmani Stores, Royapetta High Road, Madras, while rejecting the applications of many other merchants during the basic period;

(*b*) if so, the reasons for such favoured treatment;

(*c*) what is the policy of the Government in issuing fresh licences;

(*d*) whether it is true that the estimated additional expenses for the transfer of the Textile department to the Collectorate is nearly seven lakhs of rupees per year;

(*e*) if so, the reason for such transfer at such an enormous expense;

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(*f*) whether it is a fact that all the blackmarket cases of the Textile department have been transferred to the Police department; and if so, why;

(*g*) whether the Government propose to transfer this from the Police department; and

(*h*) whether it is a fact that Assistant Textile Commissioners are going to be appointed to each district to help the Collectors in the transaction of the textile business; and if so, whether fair distribution of these appointments according to the linguistic groups of districts will be made?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Proprietor of Messrs. Rukmani Stores, Royapetta, Sri D. Krishnan and his brother were running a piecegoods shop at Chintadripet, Madras, under the name and style of " Rajam and Co." till the year 1942 when due to the evacuation of the city their shop was closed down. One of the partners joined war service. In May 1946, when conditions improved, Sri D. Krishnan applied for licence to do business at Royapetta under the new name and style of " Rukmani Stores." This was granted to him as he had done business in the years 1940, 1941 and 1942 and as the subsequent break in business was due to causes beyond his control.

" Persons who had done business during the basic period and were eligible for a licence under the rules were not refused a licence when they applied for it with sufficient proof. All applications for licences were disposed of on their merits.

" (*c*) The policy of the Government in regard to the issue of fresh licences is laid down in paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 4653, Development, dated 19th December 1946, copies of which were communicated to all the members of the Legislature.

" (*d*) & (*e*) In order to secure the efficient working of the new scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn with the assistance of local committees the Government considered that Collectors should be made fully responsible for all items of textile control work which could be done on a district basis. The Textile Control Department was reorganized accordingly. The annual cost of the reorganization is estimated at Rs. 1·44 lakhs based on the average salaries of the posts created. The actual cost is likely to be much less as most of the officers are paid only the minimum of the scales and as the estimate does not include the savings due to retrenchment in the office of the Provincial Textile Commissioner. The extra cost will be fully met by the receipts from licence fees collected by the Department.

" (*f*) It is not correct to say that all blackmarketing cases of the Textile Control Department have been transferred to the Police. The Government have only removed certain restrictions which were imposed on the Police in the enforcement of textile control measures in order to facilitate the drive against blackmarketing and hoarding of controlled articles like cloth and yarn.

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"(*g*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*h*) The Government have already appointed one Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner for each district in this Province. The appointments were made only on a linguistic basis, i.e., Telugu officers have been posted for Telugu districts and Tamil officers for Tamil districts, etc."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Have any qualifications been prescribed for the Assistant Inspecting Textile Commissioner? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" There are no special qualifications but certainly they are persons well entitled to hold office that has been given to them."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know how many of them are officials and how many are non-officials? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I shall be very glad to have notice; I gave this information to the other House yesterday and I shall give that information if notice is given."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether a knowledge of textiles is one of the qualifications prescribed? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" No, Sir. These are temporary appointments and as a matter of fact, the officers who have been appointed have acquitted themselves well and have run the department in a satisfactory and proper manner."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that one of the Assistant Textile Commissioners did not even know that the yarn has to go through certain process before it is put in the loom? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR :—" Textile Commissioner-க்கு பதிலாக முன்னால் பழையபடி இருந்தவர்களிடமே கொடுத்தால் நன்றாக இருக்காதா ? என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" He is asking why not revert to the old system of control? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" The Government have considered the original scheme and have come to this conclusion. Let us try that department for some time."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if the Assistant Textile Commissioners are under the control and supervision of Collectors? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Yes, Sir."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether most of the non-officials who have been appointed have had nothing to do either with spinning or weaving? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I cannot say so."

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SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know whether for any of these temporary appointments any one from the Ceded Districts has been appointed? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not absolutely certain; but there must be one. I shall look into it."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" With reference to answer to (b) will the Hon. Minister say that there are no cases of favoured treatment in regard to granting of licences? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Certainly not, Sir."

Varagu food poisoning cases.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Anybody authorized to put the question? "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I have not been authorized; but if you permit, I shall put it."

* 79 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Lt.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of varagu food poisoning cases that have been reported since January 1946;

(*b*) what inevtigations have been carried out in connexion with recent outbreak at different parts of this Province;

(*c*) the measures that have been adopted to ensure that the rice issued is free from poisonous effects; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry by experts so as to control or eradicate this menace?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) Since January 1946 a few cases have been reported in respect of the districts of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Chingleput, Ramnad and Salem, to which some varagu had been sent from the Tanjore district to meet millets scarcity. Even in 1944–45 the Collectors of Ramnad and South Arcot reported to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies that the varagu supplied to their districts was causing giddiness and vomiting to consumers.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Assistant Entomologist, Trichinopoly, and the Millets Specialist, Coimbatore, who examined the grain in 1945 suggested some methods for avoiding the toxic effects of the grain and these methods were circularized to the Collectors concerned for giving publicity. In spite of the wide publicity given, persons in the other districts have either not been adopting the methods or are finding it difficult to adopt them successfully.

" (*d*) The Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health have taken the matter on hand and are investigating. Pending receipt of a report from them the stocking and issue of varagu in ration shops have been prohibited. However, the issue of varagu outside the ration and its sale for use as starch and cattle feed have been permitted."